

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****REGION 4**

In the Matter of:

**Cosy House, LLC**

Respondent.

Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**

**CONSENT AGREEMENT****I. NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This is an administrative penalty assessment proceeding brought under Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a) (FIFRA or the Act), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), as codified at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 22.
2. This Consent Agreement and the attached Final Order shall collectively be referred to as the CAFO.
3. Having found that settlement is consistent with the provisions of FIFRA and applicable regulations, the Parties have agreed to settle this action pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18 and consent to the entry of this CAFO without adjudication of any issues of law or fact herein.

**II. PARTIES**

4. Complainant is the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division who has been delegated the authority on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to enter into this CAFO pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 22 and Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a).
5. Respondent is Cosy House, LLC, a limited liability company, wholly owned by Wholesome Goods, Inc., doing business in the State of Florida. This proceeding pertains to Respondent's facility located at 5355 115th Avenue, Clearwater, Florida 33760 ("Facility").

**III. GOVERNING LAW**

6. A "pest" is defined in Section 2(t) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(t), as any insect, rodent, nematode,

fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the Administrator declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136w(c)(1).

7. The term “pesticide” is defined at Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), to mean, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
8. The term “label” as defined by Section 2(p)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(p)(1), means, “the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers.”
9. The term “labeling” as defined by Section 2(p)(2) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(p)(2), includes, “all labels and all other written, printed, or graphic matter (A) accompanying the pesticide or device at any time; or (B) to which reference is made on the label or in literature accompanying the pesticide or device.”
10. The term “to distribute or sell” as defined by Section 2(gg) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg), includes to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, or to release for shipment.
11. The term “person” as defined by defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.
12. Pesticides that are sold and distributed in the United States are required to be registered with the EPA, pursuant to Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
13. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 152.25(a), an article or substance treated with, or containing, a pesticide to protect the article or substance itself, is exempt from FIFRA and need not be registered if the pesticide is registered for use, and is intended for use, and used, only in the manner specified.
14. The EPA’s Pesticide Registration Notice (PRN) 2000-1 clarifies the scope of the treated articles exemption and explains that claims that go beyond stating that the product is treated with a pesticide to protect the product itself from degradation and that make public health claims that the product can protect users against pathogens is not eligible for the treated articles exemption.
15. Pursuant to Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), it is unlawful for any person in any state to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA.
16. Civil penalties under Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), may be assessed by administrative order.

#### **IV. FINDINGS OF FACTS**

17. Respondent is a “person” as defined by Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s), and as such is subject to FIFRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
18. On October 13 and 25, 2021, the EPA reviewed Respondent’s website, located at <https://www.cosyhousecollection.com>, and observed the following pesticidal and public health



claims being made for the products listed in the table below:

| <b>Products</b>                             | <b>Claims</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cosy Cleaning Essentials Starter Pack       | Antibacterial, sanitizes surfaces.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Luxury Bamboo Bed Sheets                    | Bamboo is naturally antibacterial and hypoallergenic, resisting bacteria and keeping your sheets cleaner, for longer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Luxury Bamboo Towel Set                     | Fabric resists bacteria, germs, and grime.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| All-Natural Wool Dryer Balls                | Antimicrobial                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Luxury Bamboo Pillow                        | The outer layer is the hypoallergenic bamboo case, which is cooling, antibacterial....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Classic Cotton Bed Sheets                   | Smooth sateen weave and are treated with Silvadur™. Trademark of DuPont, to provide bacteria and odor resistance.<br><br>Patented Silvadur™ technology has shown to keep sheets fresh between washes by preventing the growth of bacteria and odor-causing germs. Wake up refreshed and clean without worrying about body odor or bacteria living on your sheets. |
| 1500 Series Down Alternative Pillow         | They're also hypoallergenic, resisting dust mites, germs...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Classic Cotton Pillowcase                   | Treated with silver, these pillowcases resist bacteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Essential Cotton Towels                     | Essential Cotton Towels that are treated with silver technology to prevent bacterial growth and mildew.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Bamboo Waterproof Zippered Pillow Protector | Specially made to act as a shield against germs, mites, and mold.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

19. The above-referenced claims on Respondent's website indicated that the products were treated with a pesticidal substance intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate pests, including bacteria, mold, germs, mites, and that the products were antibacterial and/or provided a bacteria-resistant surface. The product claims did not properly qualify that the products were treated with a pesticide solely for the purpose of protecting the products themselves from degradation. Therefore, the EPA determined that the products did not qualify for the treated articles exemption pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 152.25(a), and these products were pesticides as defined in Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u), that were required to be registered pursuant to Section 3 of FIFRA.
20. On November 16, 2021, an authorized representative of the EPA conducted an inspection at the Respondent's Facility, located at 5355 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Clearwater, Florida 33760.
21. At the time of inspection, the EPA inspector requested sales and distribution records for the following products: Cosy Cleaning Essentials Starter Pack, Luxury Bamboo Bed Sheets, Luxury Bamboo Towel Set, All-Natural Wool Dryer Balls, Luxury Bamboo Pillow, Classic Cotton Bed Sheets, 1500 Series Down Alternative Pillow, Classic Cotton Pillowcase, Essential Cotton Towels, and Bamboo Waterproof Zippered Pillow Protector.

22. On January 28, 2022, Respondent submitted to the EPA certain records requested during the inspection that showed that Cosy House sold and distributed the following products on one occasion each: Cosy Cleaning Essentials Starter Pack; Luxury Bamboo Bed Sheets; Luxury Bamboo Towel Set; All-Natural Wool Dryer Balls; Luxury Bamboo Pillow; Classic Cotton Bed Sheets; 1500 Series Down Alternative Pillow; Classic Cotton Pillowcases; and the Bamboo Waterproof Zippered Pillow Protector. Additionally, on two occasions Respondent sold and distributed Essential Cotton Towels. Respondent's records show that these products with pesticidal claims were sold on at least eleven (11) occasions between August and October 2021.
23. During the inspection, the inspector observed the Luxury Bamboo Bed Sheets label containing the pesticidal claims referenced above.
24. At the time that the products identified in paragraph 22 were sold, they were not registered as pesticides with the EPA pursuant to Section 3 of FIFRA.
25. Based on the EPA's review of the pesticidal claims associated with the Cosy House products, the information collected during the inspection, and the information submitted subsequent to the inspections, the EPA alleges that Cosy House sold and/or distributed unregistered pesticides on at least eleven (11) separate occasions.

## **V. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

26. The EPA alleges that the Respondent violated Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), on at least eleven (11) occasions by distributing and/or selling unregistered pesticides and is therefore subject to the assessment of civil penalties under Section 14 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l.
27. Section 14(a) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), in conjunction with 40 C.F.R. Part 19, Adjustments of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty.

## **VI. STIPULATIONS**

28. The issuance of this CAFO simultaneously commences and concludes this proceeding. 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).
29. For the purpose of this proceeding, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2), Respondent:
  - (a) admits that the EPA has jurisdiction over the subject matter alleged in this CAFO;
  - (b) neither admits nor denies the factual allegations set forth in Section IV (Findings of Facts) of this CAFO;
  - (c) consents to the assessment of a civil penalty as stated below;
  - (d) consents to the conditions specified in this CAFO;
  - (e) waives any right to contest the alleged violations of law set forth in Section V (Alleged Violations) of this CAFO; and
  - (f) waives its rights to appeal the Final Order accompanying this CAFO.



30. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent:

- (a) agrees that this CAFO states a claim upon which relief may be granted against Respondent;
- (b) acknowledges that this CAFO constitutes an enforcement action for purposes of considering Respondent's compliance history in any subsequent enforcement actions;
- (c) waives any right it may possess at law or in equity to challenge the authority of the EPA to bring a civil action in a United States District Court to compel compliance with the CAFO, and to seek an additional penalty for such noncompliance, and agrees that federal law shall govern in any such civil action;
- (d) by executing this CAFO, certifies to the best of its knowledge that Respondent is currently in compliance with all relevant requirements of FIFRA and its implementing regulations, and that all violations alleged herein, which are neither admitted nor denied, have been corrected;
- (e) waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during any discussions with, or to be served with and reply to, any memorandum or communication addressed to EPA officials where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum, or communication is to persuade such official to accept or issue this CAFO; and
- (f) agrees to comply with the terms of this CAFO.

31. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.5, the individuals named in the certificate of service are authorized to receive service related to this proceeding and the parties agree to receive service by electronic means.

## VII. TERMS OF PAYMENT

- 32. Respondent consents to the payment of a civil penalty, which was calculated in accordance with the Act, in the amount of **FORTY-NINE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$49,900.00)**, which is to be paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this CAFO.
- 33. Payment(s) shall be made by cashier's check, certified check, by electronic funds transfer(EFT), or by Automated Clearing House (ACH) (also known as REX or remittance express). If paying by check, the check shall be payable to: Treasurer, United States of America, and the Facility name and docket number for this matter shall be referenced on the face of the check.

If Respondent sends payment by the U.S. Postal Service, the payment shall be addressed to:

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Fines and Penalties  
Cincinnati Finance Center  
P.O. Box 979077  
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

If Respondent sends payment by non-U.S. Postal express mail delivery, the payment shall be sent to:

U.S. Bank  
Government Lockbox 979077  
U.S. EPA Fines & Penalties  
1005 Convention Plaza  
Mail Station: SL-MO-C2-GL  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Contact Number: (314) 425-1819

If paying by EFT, Respondent shall transfer the payment to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
ABA: 021030004  
Account Number: 68010727  
SWIFT address: FRNYUS33  
33 Liberty Street  
New York, New York 10045  
Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:  
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

If paying by ACH, Respondent shall remit payment to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver  
ABA: 051036706  
Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency  
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 – checking  
Physical location of US Treasury facility:  
5700 Rivertech Court  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737  
Contact: Craig Steffen (513) 487-2091  
REX (Remittance Express): 1-866-234-5681

34. Respondent shall send proof of payment, within 24 hours of payment of the civil penalty, to:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
R4\_Regional\_Hearing\_Clerk@epa.gov

and

Deborah Ortiz  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
Chemical Safety, Land, Enforcement Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960  
ortiz.deborah@epa.gov



35. "Proof of payment" means, as applicable, a copy of the check, confirmation of credit card or debit card payment, confirmation of wire or automated clearinghouse transfer, and any other information required to demonstrate that payment has been made according to the EPA requirements, in the amount due, and identified with the Facility name and Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**.
36. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717, 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, if Respondent fails to remit the civil penalty as agreed to herein, the EPA is entitled to assess interest and penalties on debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim. Accordingly, the EPA may require the Respondent to pay the following amounts on any amount overdue:
- (a) Interest. Interest will begin to accrue on the civil penalty from the Effective Date of this CAFO. If the civil penalty is paid within 30 days of the Effective Date of this CAFO, interest is waived. However, if the civil penalty is not paid in full within 30 days of the Effective Date of this CAFO, interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid portion until the unpaid portion of the penalty and accrued Interest is paid. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate, as established by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717(a)(1), 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).
  - (b) Non-Payment Penalty. On any portion of a civil penalty more than ninety (90) calendar days past due, Respondent must pay a non-payment penalty of not more than six percent (6%) per annum, which will accrue from the date the penalty payment became due and is not paid, as provided in 31 U.S.C. § 3717(e)(2) and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d). This non-payment penalty is in addition to charges which accrue or may accrue under subparagraphs (a) and (c) and will be assessed monthly. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c).
  - (c) Monthly Handling Charge. Respondent must pay a late payment handling charge to cover the administrative costs of processing and handling the delinquent claim, based on either actual or average cost incurred. 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(c), and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Administrative costs will be assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue except as provided by 40 C.F.R. § 13.12.
37. If Respondent fails to timely pay any portion of the penalty assessed under this CAFO, pursuant to Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(5), the EPA may:
- (a) refer the debt to a credit reporting agency or a collection agency pursuant to Section 14(a) of FIFRA 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a), 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13 and 13.14;
  - (b) collect the debt by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Internal Revenue Service for offset against income tax refunds, 40 C.F.R. Part 13, Subparts C and H;
  - (c) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges, or suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with the EPA or engaging in programs the EPA sponsors or funds, 40 C.F.R. § 13.17; and/or

- (d) request that the Attorney General bring a civil action in the appropriate district court to recover the amount assessed pursuant to Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136l(a)(5).

38. Penalties paid pursuant to this CAFO shall not be deductible for purposes of federal taxes.

### **VIII. EFFECT OF CAFO**

39. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), Respondent's full compliance with this CAFO shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged above.
40. Full payment of the civil penalty, as provided in Section VII (Terms of Payment), shall not in any case affect the right of the EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c).
41. Any violation of this CAFO may result in a civil judicial action for civil penalties as provided in Section 14(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 136l(a), as well as criminal sanctions as provided in Section 14(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 136l(b). The EPA may use any information submitted under this CAFO in an administrative, civil judicial, or criminal action.
42. Nothing in this CAFO shall relieve Respondent of the duty to comply with all applicable provisions of FIFRA and other federal, state, or local laws or statutes, nor shall it restrict the EPA's authority to seek compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, nor shall it be construed to be a ruling on, or determination of, any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit, except as expressly provided herein.
43. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the EPA to undertake any action against Respondent or any person in response to conditions that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment as provided under the Act.
44. The terms, conditions, and compliance requirements of this CAFO may not be modified or amended except upon the written agreement of both Parties, and approval of the Regional Judicial Officer.
45. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.
46. Any change in the legal status of the Respondent, or change in ownership, partnership, corporate or legal status relating to the Facility, will not in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CAFO.
47. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that this CAFO will be available to the public and agrees that this CAFO does not contain any confidential business information or personally identifiable information.
48. By signing this Consent Agreement, the Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certify that he or she is fully authorized to execute and enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and has the legal capacity to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.



49. By signing this Consent Agreement, both Parties agree that each party's obligations under this CAFO constitute sufficient consideration for the other party's obligations.
50. By signing this Consent Agreement, Respondent certifies that the information it has supplied concerning this matter was at the time of submission, and continues to be, true, accurate, and complete for each such submission, response, and statement. Respondent acknowledges that there are significant penalties for submitting false or misleading information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing submission of such information, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.
51. The EPA also reserves the right to revoke this CAFO and settlement penalty if and to the extent that the EPA finds, after signing this CAFO, that any information provided by Respondent was materially false or inaccurate at the time such information was provided to the EPA. If such false or inaccurate material was provided, the EPA reserves the right to assess and collect any and all civil penalties for any violation described herein. The EPA shall give Respondent notice of its intent to revoke, which shall not be effective until received by Respondent in writing.
52. It is the intent of the parties that the provisions of this CAFO are severable. If any provision or authority of this CAFO or the application of this CAFO to any party or circumstances is held by any judicial or administrative authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the application of such provisions to other parties or circumstances and the remainder of the CAFO shall remain in force and shall not be affected thereby.
53. Unless specifically stated otherwise in this CAFO, each party shall bear its own attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

#### **IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**


54. This CAFO shall become effective upon execution of the Final Order by the Regional Judicial Officer on the date of filing with the Hearing Clerk.

**[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]**

**Complainant and Respondent will Each Sign on Separate Pages]**

The foregoing Consent Agreement In the Matter of **Cosy House, LLC**, Docket Number **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**, is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed and Approved for Entry.

FOR RESPONDENT:

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 8/10/22  
Printed Name: Carlos Ordonez Gil  
Title: CFO  
Address: 5355 115<sup>th</sup> Ave N.  
Clearwater, FL 33760



The foregoing Consent Agreement In the Matter of **Cosy House, LLC**, Docket Number **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**, is Hereby Stipulated, Agreed and Approved for Entry.

FOR COMPLAINANT:

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Carol L. Kemker  
Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

In the Matter of:

**Cosy House, LLC**

Respondent.

Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**

**FINAL ORDER**

The Regional Judicial Officer is authorized to ratify this Consent Agreement which memorializes a settlement between Complainant and Respondent. 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.4(b) and 22.18(b)(3). The foregoing Consent Agreement is, therefore, hereby approved, ratified, and incorporated by reference into this Final Order in accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits*, 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

The Respondent is hereby ORDERED to comply with all of the terms of the foregoing Consent Agreement effective immediately upon filing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order disposes of this matter pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31.

**BEING AGREED, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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Tanya Floyd  
Regional Judicial Officer



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order, in the Matter of **Cosy House, LLC** Docket No. **FIFRA-04-2022-0706(b)**, were filed and copies of the same were emailed to the parties as indicated below.

**Via email to all parties at the following email addresses:**

To Respondent:      Margaret K. Fawal, Esq.  
                                 Venable, LLP  
                                 600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
                                 Washington, DC 20001  
                                 (202) 344-4791  
                                 MKFawal@venable.com

                                 Doug Green, Esq.  
                                 Venable, LLP  
                                 600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
                                 Washington, DC 20001  
                                 (202) 344-4483  
                                 dhgreen@Venable.com

To EPA:                Deborah Ortiz  
                                 Case Development Officer  
                                 ortiz.deborah@epa.gov

                                 Rob Summers  
                                 Attorney-Adviser  
                                 summers.robert@epa.gov

                                 Robert Caplan  
                                 Senior Attorney  
                                 caplan.robert@epa.gov

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Shannon L. Richardson  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960